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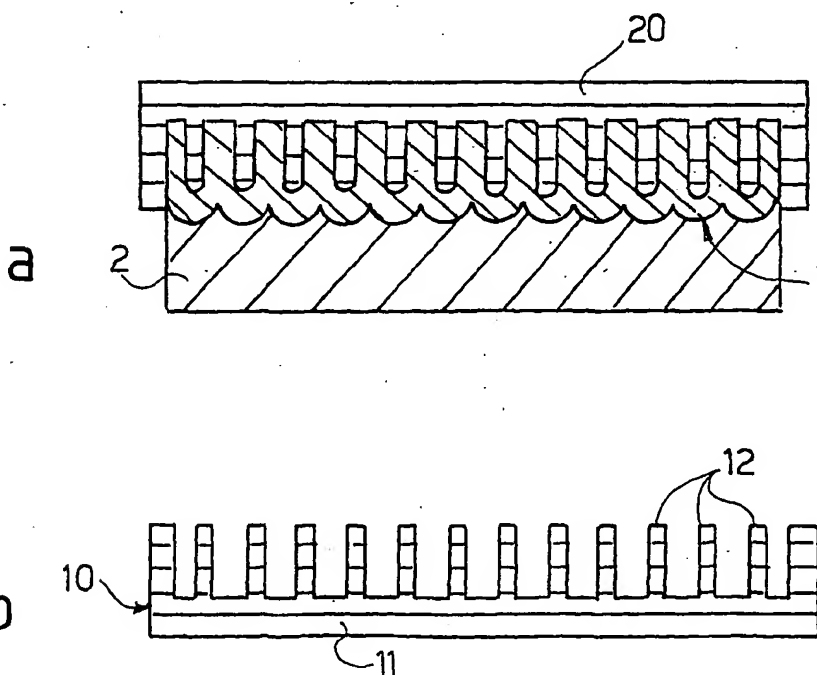
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(54) Title: PROCESS TO MAKE NANO-STRUCTURATED EMITTERS FOR INCANDESCENCE LIGHT SOURCES



(57) Abstract: In a process to make an emitter (10) for light sources, which can be led to incandescence through the passage of electric current, a layer made of anodized porous alumina (1) is used as sacrificial element for the structuring of at least a part of the emitter (10).

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**"Process to make nano-structured emitters for
incandescence light sources"**

The present invention relates to a process to make
5 a nano-structured emitter element for light sources,
which can be led to incandescence through the passage
of electric current.

Metal components having nanometric surface struc-
tures or reliefs, arranged according to specific shapes
10 or geometries, are currently used in some technological
fields, such as micro electro-mechanical systems or
MEMS, so as to obtain diffractive optical arrangements,
medical devices, microturbines, and so on.

The present invention is based on the acknowledge-
15 ment that nano-structured filaments can find important
applications in the field of incandescence lamps. In
said light, the present invention aims at suggesting a
new process to make in a simple and economical way
filaments or similar emitters for incandescence light
20 sources, having nanometric reliefs or structures.

Said aim is achieved according to the present in-
vention by a process to make an emitter as referred to
above, characterized in that it envisages the use of a
layer made of anodized porous alumina as sacrificial
25 element for the selective structuring of the emitter.

The use of the aforesaid alumina layer enables to
obtain a plurality of reliefs on at least a surface of
the emitter, or a plurality of cavities within the
emitter. Said nanometric reliefs or cavities are ar-
30 ranged on the emitter according to a predefined geome-
try.

Preferred characteristics of the process according
to the invention are referred to in the appended
claims, which are an integral part of the present de-
35 scription.

Further aims, characteristics and advantages of the present invention will be evident from the following detailed description and from the accompanying drawings, provided as a mere illustrative, non-limiting example, in which:

- Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a portion of a porous alumina film;
- Figures 2-5 are schematic views showing some steps of a film-building process for an alumina film as the one shown in Figure 1;
- Figure 6 is a schematic perspective view of a portion of a first nano-structured emitter as can be made according to the invention;
- Figure 7 is a schematic perspective view of a portion of a second nano-structured emitter as can be made according to the invention;
- Figures 8, 9 and 10 are schematic sections showing three different possible implementations of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured emitter as shown in Figure 6;
- Figures 11, 12 and 13 are schematic sections showing three different possible implementations of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured emitter as shown in Figure 7;
- Figure 14 shows schematic sections of a further possible implementation of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured emitter as shown in Figure 6;
- Figure 15 shows schematic sections of a further possible implementation of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured emitter as shown in Figure 7;
- Figure 16 shows schematic sections of a further possible implementation of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured

emitter as shown in Figure 6;

- Figure 17 shows schematic sections of a further possible implementation of the process according to the invention, as can be used to make a nano-structured emitter as shown in Figure 7.

In all its possible implementations, the process according to the present invention envisages the use of a highly regular film made of anodized porous alumina as sacrificial element or template; depending on the case, said alumina layer is used directly to obtain the desired nano-structured emitter, or indirectly to make a further sacrificial element required to obtain the aforesaid emitter.

Porous alumina films have attracted attention in the past for applications such as dielectric films in aluminum capacitors, films for the retention of organic coatings and for the protection of aluminum substrates.

The structure of porous alumina can be ideally schematized as a network of hollow columns immersed in an alumina matrix. Porous alumina can be obtained by anodization of highly pure aluminum sheets or of aluminum films on substrates like glass, quartz, silicon, tungsten, and so on.

Figure 1 shows by mere way of example a portion of a porous alumina film, globally referred to with number 1, obtained by anodic oxidation of an aluminum film on a convenient substrate, the latter being referred to with number 2. As can be seen, the alumina layer 1 comprises a series of basically hexagonal cells 3 directly close to one another, each having a straight central hole forming a pore 4, basically perpendicular to the surface of the substrate 2. The end of each cell 3 placed on the substrate 2 has a closing portion with basically hemispheric shape, all closing portions building together a non-porous part of the film 1, or

barrier layer, referred to with number 5.

As is known from the prior art, the film 1 can be developed with a controlled morphology by suitably selecting the electrolyte and process physical and electrochemical parameters: in acid electrolytes (such as phosphoric acid, oxalic acid and sulfuric acid) and under suitable process conditions (voltage, current, stirring and temperature), highly regular porous films can be obtained. To said purpose the size and density of cells 3, the diameter of pores 4 and the height of film 1 can be varied; for instance the diameter of pores 4, which is typically of 50-500 nm, can be increased or decreased through chemical treatments.

As schematically shown in Figure 2, the first step when making a porous alumina film 1 is the deposition of an aluminum layer 6 onto the substrate 2, the latter being for instance made of silicon or tungsten. Said operation requires a deposit of highly pure materials with thicknesses of one micron to 30 microns. Preferred deposition techniques for the layer 3 are thermal evaporation via e-beam and sputtering.

The step including the deposition of the aluminum layer 6 is followed by a step in which said layer is anodized. The anodization process of the layer 6 can be carried out by using different electrolytic solutions depending on the desired size and distance of pores 4.

Should the electrolyte be the same, concentration, current density and temperature are the parameters that greater affect the size of pores 4. The configuration of the electrolytic cell is also important in order to obtain a correct distribution of the shape lines of the electric field with a corresponding uniformity of the anodic process.

Figure 3 schematically shows the result of the first anodization of the aluminum layer 6 onto the sub-

strate 2; as schematically pointed out, the alumina film 1A obtained through the first anodization of the layer 6 does not enable to obtain a regular structure. In order to obtain a highly regular structure, such as the one referred to with number 1 in Figure 1, it is thus necessary to carry out consecutive anodization processes, and in particular at least

- i) a first anodization process, whose result can be seen in Figure 3;
- 10 ii) a reduction step through etching of the irregular alumina film 6, carried out by means of acid solutions (for instance CrO_3 and H_3PO_4); Figure 4 schematically shows the substrate 2 after said etching step;
- 15 iii) a second anodization of the part of alumina film 1A that has not been removed through etching.

The etching step referred to in ii) is important so as to define on the residual alumina part 1A preferential areas for alumina growth in the second anodization step.

20 By performing several times the consecutive operations involving etching and anodization, the structure improves until it becomes uniform, as schematically shown in Figure 5, where the alumina film referred to with number 1 is now regular.

As shall be seen below, in some implementations of the process according to the invention, after obtaining the regular porous alumina film 1, a step involving a total or local removal of the barrier layer 5 is carried out. The barrier layer 5 insulates the alumina structure and protects the underlying substrate 2: the reduction of said layer 5 is therefore fundamental so as to perform, if necessary, consecutive electrodeposition processes requiring an electric contact, and etching processes, in case three-dimensional nano-

35

structures should be obtained directly on the substrate
2.

The aforesaid process involving the removal or re-
duction of the barrier layer 5 can include two consecu-
5 tive stages:

- widening of pores 4, performed in the same elec-
trolyte as in previous anodization, without passage of
current;

- reduction of the barrier layer 5, performed by
10 passage of very low current in the same electrolyte as
in previous anodization; at this stage the typical bal-
ance of anodization is not achieved, thus favoring
etching process with respect to alumina-building proc-
ess.

15 As mentioned above, according to the invention the
alumina film 1 generated through the process previously
described is used as template for nano-structuring,
i.e. as a base to make structures reproducing the same
pattern of alumina. As shall be seen, depending on the
20 selected implementation, it is thus possible to make
negative nano-structures, i.e. basically complementary
to alumina and therefore having columns on the pores of
the film 1, or positive nano-structures, i.e. basically
identical to alumina and therefore with cavities on the
25 pores 4 of the film 1.

Figures 6 and 7 show in a partial and schematic
way two filaments for incandescence light sources hav-
ing the two types of structures referred to above,
which can be carried out according to the invention;
30 the filament referred to with number 10 in Figure 6 has
the aforesaid negative structure, characterized by a
base portion 11 from which the aforesaid columns re-
ferred to with number 12 start; the filament referred
to with number 13 in Figure 7 has the aforesaid posi-
35 tive structure, characterized by a body 14 in which the

aforesaid cavities referred to with 15 are defined.

The techniques suggested to make structured filaments 10, 13 as in Figures 6 and 7 can be quite different, and can include in particular additional techniques (such as evaporation, sputtering, Chemical Vapor Deposition, screen printing and electrodeposition), subtractive techniques (etching) and intermediate techniques (anodization of metal underlying alumina).

To this purpose some possible implementations of the process according to the invention are now described in the following.

First implementation

Figure 8 schematically shows some steps of a first implementation of the process according to the invention, so as to make negative structures as the one of filament 10 in Figure 6.

The first four steps of the process include at least a first and a second anodization of a corresponding aluminum layer on a suitable substrate, as previously described with reference to Figures 2-5; the substrate 2 can be for instance made of silicon and the aluminum layer for the anodization processes can be deposited by sputtering or e-beam.

After obtaining the film 1 having a regular alumina structure (as can be seen in Figure 5), the material to be nano-structured is deposited as a film onto alumina through sputtering; thus, as shown by way of example in part a) of Figure 8, the pores of alumina 1 are filled with the deposited material, tungsten for instance, referred to with number 20.

This is followed by the removal of alumina 1 and of its substrate 2 through etching, as shown in part b) of Figure 8, thus obtaining the desired filament 10 with negative nano-structure, here made of tungsten.

Sputtering technique consists in depositing films

of highly pure material 20 with a thickness of 1 to 30 micron, but does not enable to reproduce structures having a high aspect ratio in an ideal way; the implementation described above is therefore used when the diameter of alumina pores 4 is at its maximum.

Therefore, instead of sputtering, the deposition of material 20 can be performed through Chemical Vapor Deposition or CVD, which is regarded as the most suitable technique for making structures of highly pure or conveniently doped metal. The main feature of this technique is the use of a reaction chamber containing reducing gases, which enable metal penetration into the hollow pores of alumina and the deposit of a continuous layer onto the surface. This ensures a faithful reproduction of high aspect ratio structures.

Second implementation

As for the previous case, this implementation consists in making negative structures, as the one of filament 10 in Figure 6; the implementation basically includes the same initial steps as those of the first implementation, as far as the deposition of the aluminum layer 6 onto the substrate 2 (Figure 2), a first anodization (Figure 3) and a subsequent etching (Figure 4) are concerned. The second anodization (Figure 5) is here performed in order to make a film 1 of thicker porous alumina than in the first implementation.

The thick alumina film 1 is then taken off its support 2 and opened at its base, so as to remove the barrier layer previously referred to with number 5, in a known way. The resulting structure of film 1 without its barrier layer can be seen in part a) of Figure 9.

The following step, as in part b) of Figure 9, consists in the thermal deposition, or deposition through sputtering, of a conductive metal film 21 onto alumina 1. A tungsten alloy 22 is then electrodeposited

onto the structure thus obtained, as in part c) of Figure 9, which alloy fills the pores of alumina 1. Then alumina 1 and its metal film 21 thereto associated are then removed, thus obtaining the desired nano-structured filament 10 made of tungsten alloy, as can be seen in part d) of Figure 9.

Third implementation

This implementation consists in making negative structures as the one of filament 10 in Figure 6, with the same initial steps as those in previous implementations (Figures 2-5).

As shown in part a) of Figure 10, the second anodization is here followed by a step in which a serigraphic paste 23 is deposited onto porous alumina 1, so as to fill its pores.

This is followed by a step in which said paste 23 is sintered, as in part b) of Figure 10, and then alumina 1 and its substrate 2 are removed, so as to obtain the structure 10 as in part c) of Figure 10.

This implementation enables to exploit low-cost technologies and ensures flexibility in the choice of materials. The preparation of the serigraphic paste is the first step of the process; the correct choice of the metal nano-powder, for instance comprising tungsten, solvent and binder, is fundamental to obtain a paste having ideal granulometric and rheologic properties for different types of substrates 2.

Fourth implementation

This implementation of the process according to the invention aims at making positive structures as the one of filament 13 of Figure 7, starting from a template obtained according to previous implementations.

Basically, therefore, one of previous implementations is first used to obtain a substrate having the same structure as the one of filaments previously re-

ferred to with number 10; onto said substrate, referred to with number 10A in part a) of Figure 11, is then deposited a layer of the material 24 required to obtain the final component, for instance tungsten, through sputtering or CVD, as shown in part b) of Figure 11; the material 24 thus covers the columns 12A of the aforesaid substrates 10A, which acts as a template.

Then the substrate 10A is taken off through selective etching, so as to obtain the filament 13 with positive nano-porous structure, as can be seen in part d) of Figure 11, provided with corresponding cavities 15.

The substrate 10A, obtained according to the first three implementations described above, is not necessarily made of tungsten. In a possible variant, onto the substrate 10A, obtained as in Figures 8-9, a metal serigraphic paste 25 is deposited, as in parts a) and b) of Figure 12, which is then sintered, as in part c) of Figure 12. The substrate 10A is then taken off through selective etching, so as to obtain the filament 13 with positive nano-porous structure, as can be seen in part d) of Figure 12.

Fifth implementation

Also this implementation of the process according to the invention aims at carrying out positive nano-structures as the one of the filament previously referred to with number 13, and includes the same initial steps as those shown in Figures 2-5, with the deposition of an aluminum layer 6 through sputtering or e-beam onto a tungsten substrate 2 (Figure 2), followed by a first anodization of aluminum 6 (Figure 3) and an etching step (Figure 4), so as to provide the substrate 2 with preferential areas for the growth of alumina 1 during the second anodization (Figure 5).

The barrier layer 5 of alumina 1 is then removed,

thus opening the pores 4, as can be seen in part a) of Figure 13. This is followed by a step of Reactive Ion Etching (RIE), which allows to "dig" selectively in the substrate 2 on the open bottom of the pores 4 of alumina 1, as can be seen in part b) of Figure 13.

The residual alumina 1 is eventually removed, so that the tungsten substrate forms a body 14 with regular nanometric cavities 15, thus obtaining the desired filament 13.

10 The Reactive Ion Etching step can be replaced, if necessary, by a selective wet etching step or by an electrochemical etching step.

Sixth implementation

15 This implementation of the process aims at making negative structures as the one of filament 10 of Figure 6 and its initial steps are the same as in previous implementation. Therefore, after obtaining a regular film of alumina 1 on the corresponding tungsten substrate 2 (Figure 5), the barrier layer 5 is removed, so as to
20 open the pores 4 on the substrate 2, as can be seen in part a) of Figure 14. This is followed by an electrochemical deposition of a tungsten alloy 26 with pulsed current, as schematically shown in part b) of Figure 14, and eventually by the removal of residual alumina 1
25 and of its substrate 2, so as to obtain the desired filament 10, as can be seen in part c) of Figure 14.

The process 6 first consists in preparing the concentrated electrolytic solution for tungsten deposition into the pores 4 of alumina 1; the electrolyte is very
30 important for correctly filling the pores, since it ensures a sufficient concentration of ions in solution. The pulsed current step enables to carry out the copy of structures with high aspect ratio, and sequentially includes

35 i) the deposition of the tungsten alloy 26 by ap-

plying a positive current; this results in a given impoverishment of the solution close to the cathode made of alumina 1 and its substrate 2;

ii) a relax time, without current application, so as to let the solution be re-mixed close to the cathode;

iii) the application of negative current, designed to remove a part of the alloy 26 previously deposited onto the cathode, thus enabling a better leveling of deposited surface.

Steps I), ii) and iii), each lasting for a few milliseconds, are cyclically repeated until the desired structure is obtained.

Seventh implementation

This implementation aims at making positive nanostructures as the one of filament 13 starting from a substrate with negative structure, obtained through previous implementation, though not necessarily made of tungsten; the aforesaid substrate with negative structure acting as template is referred to with number 10A in part a) of Figure 15.

A tungsten layer 27 is deposited onto said substrate 10A through CVD or sputtering, as can be seen in part b) of Figure 15. This is followed by a selective etching step, so as to remove the substrate 10A, thus obtaining the desired filament 13 with tungsten nanoporous structure, as can be seen in part c) of Figure 15.

Eighth implementation

This implementation aims at making negative nanostructures as the one of filament 10 of Figure 6, and its initial steps are the same as those shown in Figures 2-5, with the deposition of an aluminum layer 6 through sputtering or e-beam onto a tungsten substrate 2 (Figure 2), followed by a first anodization of alumi-

num 6 (Figure 3) and an etching step (Figure 4), so as to provide the substrate 2 with preferential areas for the growth of alumina 1 during the second anodization (Figure 5).

5 This is followed by a step including the anodization of the tungsten substrate 2, so as to induce the localized growth of the latter, which occurs below the pores 4 of alumina 1. Said step, as shown in part a) of Figure 16, basically includes the formation of surface
10 reliefs 2A of the substrate 2, which first cause the barrier layer 5 of alumina 1 to break, and then keep on growing within alumina pores 4.

Through a selective etching with W/W oxide alumina 1 is then removed, so as to obtain the desired filament
15 10 with negative nano-structure as in part b) of Figure 16.

It should be noted that this implementation is based on a typical feature of some metals, such as tungsten and tantalum, which anodize under the same
20 chemical and electric conditions as aluminum; as mentioned above, said anodization occurs in the lower portion of the pores 4 of alumina 1, thus directly structuring the surface of the substrate 2.

Ninth implementation

25 This implementation aims at carrying out positive nano-porous structures as the one of filament 13 of Figure 7 starting from a substrate having a negative structure as the one obtained through previous implementation; said substrate acting as template is referred to with number 10A in part a) of Figure 17.

A tungsten alloy 27 is deposited onto said substrate 10A through electrochemical deposition, CVD or sputtering, as shown in part b) of Figure 17. The substrate 10A is then removed through selective etching,
35 thus obtaining the desired filament 13 with positive or

nano-porous structure.

From the above description it can be inferred that in all described implementations the process according to the invention includes the use of an alumina layer 1 which, depending on the case, directly acts as template so as to obtain the desired filament with nanometric structure 10, or which is used to obtain a template 10A for the subsequent structuring of the desired filament 13.

10 The invention proves particularly advantageous for the structuring of filaments for incandescence light sources, and more generally of components also under a different form with respect to a filament which can be led to incandescence through a passage of electric current. It should be noticed that an emitter made according to the invention can also be formed by plurality of layers structured by means of porous alumina according to the above describes techniques, in the form of superimposed structured layers.

20 The described process enables for instance to easily define, on one or more surfaces of a filament, for instance made of tungsten, an antireflection microstructure comprising a plurality of microreliefs, so as to maximize electromagnetic emission from filament into visible spectrum. The invention can be advantageously applied also to make other photon crystal structures, i.e. in structures made of tungsten or other suitable materials characterized by the presence of series of regular microcavities, which contain a medium with a refractive index differing from the one of tungsten or other material used.

30 Obviously, though the basic idea of the invention remains the same, construction details and embodiments can widely vary with respect to what has been described and shown by mere way of example.

CLAIMS

1. Process to make an emitter (10; 13) for light sources, which can be led to incandescence through the passage of electric current, characterized in that a layer made of anodized porous alumina (1) is used as sacrificial element for the structuring of at least a part of the emitter (10; 13).

2. Process according to claim 1, characterized in that said structuring consists in obtaining at least one between

- a plurality of nanometric reliefs (12) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry on at least a surface of the emitter (10),
- a plurality of nanometric cavities (15) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry within the emitter (13).

3. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that the alumina layer (2) is obtained through consecutive anodizations of an aluminum film (6) deposited onto a surface of a corresponding substrate (2), until a regular alumina structure is obtained, which defines a plurality of pores (4) basically perpendicular to said surface of the substrate (2), the alumina layer (2) having a non-porous portion (5) close to the respective substrate (2).

4. Process according to claim 3, characterized in that the alumina layer (1) is used either as sacrificial template during said structuring or as intermediate template for obtaining a further sacrificial template (10A) for said structuring.

5. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that said structuring includes a step of deposition of material through evaporation, sputtering, Chemical Vapor Deposition, screen printing or electrodeposition.

6. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that structuring includes an etching step.

7. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that said structuring includes a step of anodization of a metal underlying the alumina layer (1).

8. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- the material (20) designed to make up the desired component (10; 10A) having a plurality of reliefs (12; 12A) is deposited as a film onto the alumina layer (1), a part of said material (20) filling said pores (4), and

- the alumina layer (1) and its substrate (2) are then removed, thus obtaining the desired component (10; 10A), whose reliefs (12; 12A) consist of the part of said material (20) which filled said pores (4).

9. Process according to claim 8, characterized in that said material (20) is deposited onto the alumina layer (1) through sputtering or Chemical Vapor Deposition.

10. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- the alumina layer (2) is removed from its substrate (2) and opened at its base, removing its non-porous portion (5),

- a conductive metal film (21) is deposited onto the alumina layer (1),

- the material (22) designed to make up a desired component (10; 10A) having a plurality of reliefs (12; 12A) is electrodeposited onto the structure formed by the metal film (21) and the residual part of the alumina layer (1), a part of said material (20) filling said pores (4);

- the residual part of the alumina layer (1) and the metal film (21) are then removed, thus obtaining

the desired component (10; 10A), whose reliefs (12, 12A) consist of the part of said material (20) which filled said pores (4).

11. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- the material (23) designed to make up the desired component (10; 10A) having a plurality of reliefs (12; 12A) is deposited as a serigraphic paste onto the alumina layer (1), a part of said paste (23) filling said pores (4),

- said paste (23) is sintered, and
- the alumina layer (1) and its substrate (2) are then removed, thus obtaining the desired component (10; 10A), whose reliefs (12; 12A) consist of the part of said material (20) which filled said pores (4).

12. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- localized parts of the non-porous portion (5) of the alumina layer (1) are removed, so as to open said pores (4) on their substrate (2),

- the material (26) designed to make up a desired component (10; 10A) having a plurality of reliefs (12; 12A) is deposited through electrochemical methods onto the residual part of the alumina layer (1), a part of said material (26) filling said pores (4) and getting into contact with their substrate (2), and

- the residual part of the alumina layer (1) and its substrate (2) are then removed, thus obtaining the desired component (10; 10A), whose reliefs (12, 12A) consist of the part of said material (20) which filled said pores (4).

13. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the structuring includes the following steps:

- the substrate (2) of the alumina layer (1) undergoes anodization, so as to induce a growth of the

substrate (2) below said pores (4), said growth resulting in the formation of surface projections (2A) of the substrate (2), which first cause parts of the non-porous portion (5) of the alumina layer (1) to break
5 and then keep on growing within said pores (4), and

- the alumina layer (1) is removed through selective etching, a desired component (10) having a plurality of reliefs (12) being thus made by the substrate (2), said surface projections (1A) making up said reliefs (12).
10

14. Process according to one of the claims 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, characterized in that said desired component is said emitter (10).

15. Process according to one of the claims 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, characterized in that said desired component is said further template (10A).
15

16. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- a layer of the material (24, 25) designed to make up said emitter (13) is deposited onto said further template (10A), and
20

- said further template (10A, 13A) is removed, thus obtaining said emitter (13).

17. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:
25

- a layer of the material designed to make up said emitter (13) is deposited onto said further template (10A, 13A), and

- said further template (10A, 13A) is removed, thus obtaining said emitter (13).
30

18. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- a layer of the material designed to make up said emitter (13) is deposited onto said further template (10A, 13A), and
35

- said further template (10A, 13A) is removed, thus obtaining said emitter (13).

19. Process according to one of the claims 16, 17 or 18, characterized in that the material (24) designed to make up said emitter (13) is deposited onto said further template (10A, 13A) through sputtering or Chemical Vapor Deposition, and in that said further template (10A, 13A) is removed through selective etching.

20. Process according to one of the claims 16, 17 or 18, characterized in that the material (24, 25) designed to make up said emitter (13) is in the form of a serigraphic paste (25), which is sintered after being deposited onto said further template (10A, 13A) the latter being then removed through selective etching.

21. Process according to claim 5, characterized in that said structuring includes the following steps:

- at least a part of the non-porous portion (5) of the alumina layer (1) is removed, said pores (4) being thus opened on their substrate (2),

- the substrate is selectively dug in the corresponding open areas on said pores (4),

- the residual part of the alumina layer (1) is removed, the substrate thus making up said emitter (13), the dug areas of the substrate (2) making up said cavities (15).

22. Process according to claim 21, characterized in that the substrate (2) is dug on said open areas through Reactive Ion Etching or selective wet etching or electrochemical etching.

23. Emitter for light sources, in particular a filament, which can be led to incandescence through the passage of electric current, obtained with the process according to one or more claims 1 to 22, the emitter having at least one between

- a plurality of nanometric reliefs (12) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry on at least a surface of the emitter (10),

5 - a plurality of nanometric cavities (15) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry within the emitter (13).

24. Emitter according to claim 23, where said reliefs (12) make up an antireflection microstructure, in order to maximize electromagnetic emission from emitter
10 (12) into visible spectrum.

25. Emitter according to claim 23, where said cavities (15) are part of a photon crystal structure.

26. Use of anodized porous alumina (1) as sacrificial element for the structuring of at least a part of
15 an emitter (10; 13) for light sources, which can be led to incandescence through the passage of electric current.

27. Use according to claim 26, where alumina (1) is used as template during said structuring.

20 28. Use according to claim 26, where alumina (1) is used as template for obtaining a further template (10A, 13A) used during said structuring.

29. Use according to claim 26, where said structuring allows to obtain at least one between

25 - a plurality of nanometric reliefs (12) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry on at least a surface of the emitter (10),

- a plurality of nanometric cavities (15) arranged according to a basically predefined geometry within the
30 emitter (13).

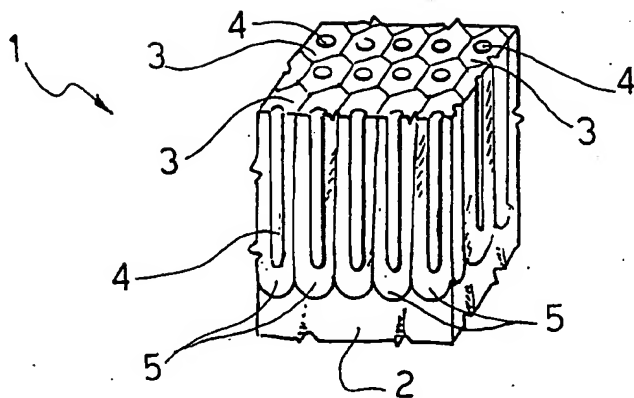


FIG. 1

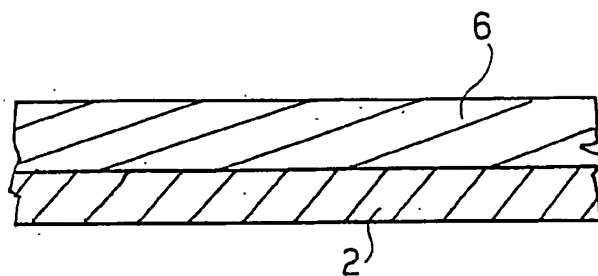


FIG. 2

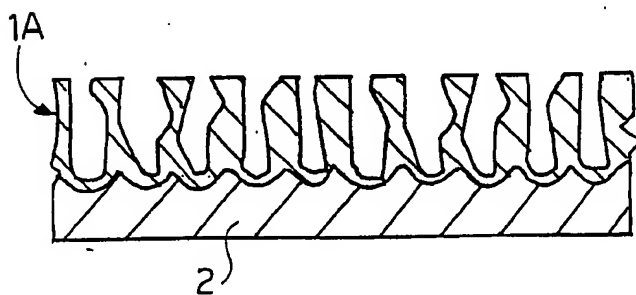


FIG. 3

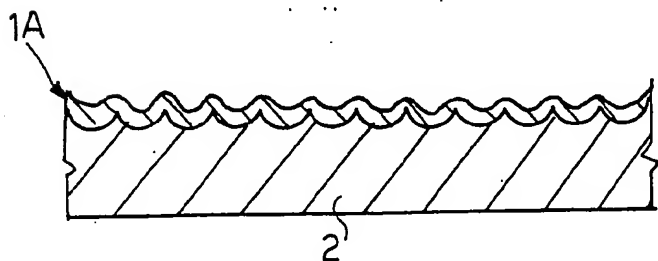


FIG. 4

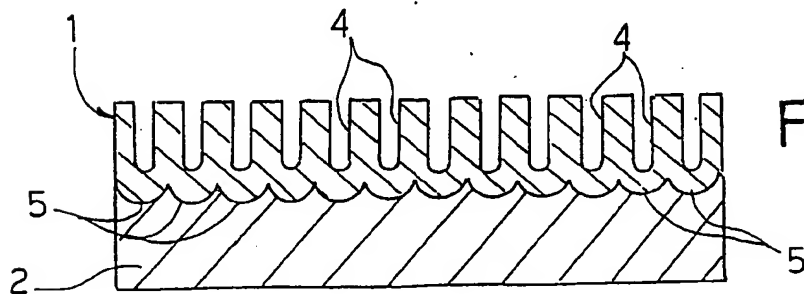


FIG. 5

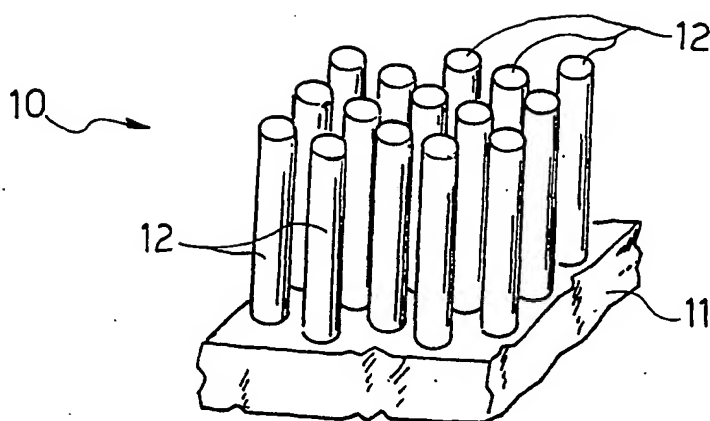


FIG. 6

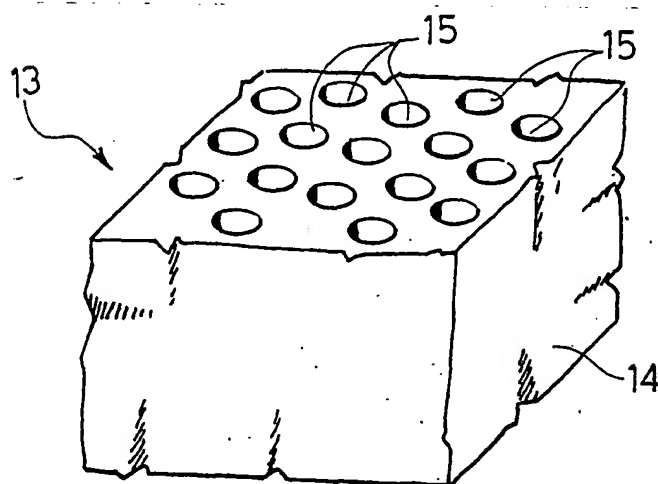


FIG. 7

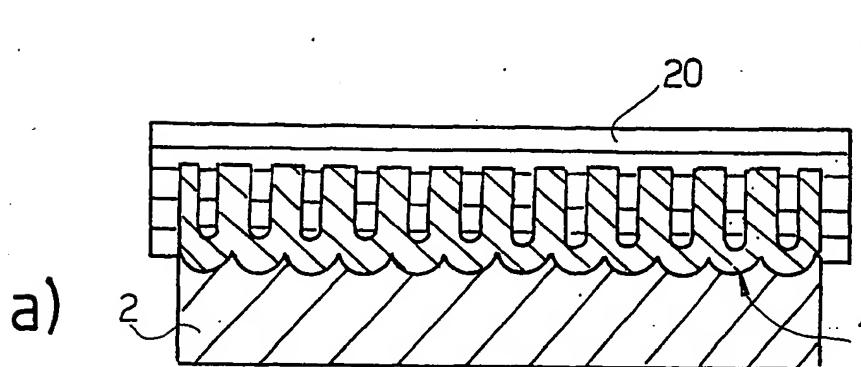


FIG. 8

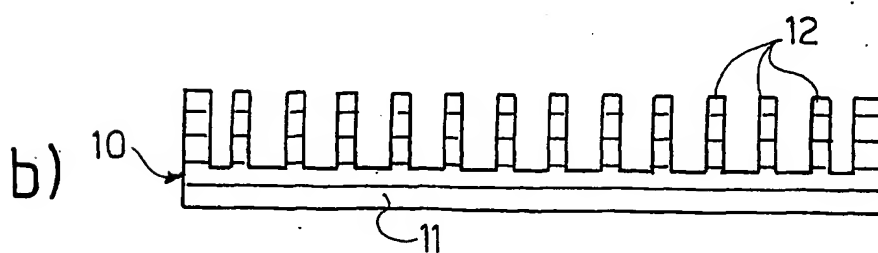


FIG. 9

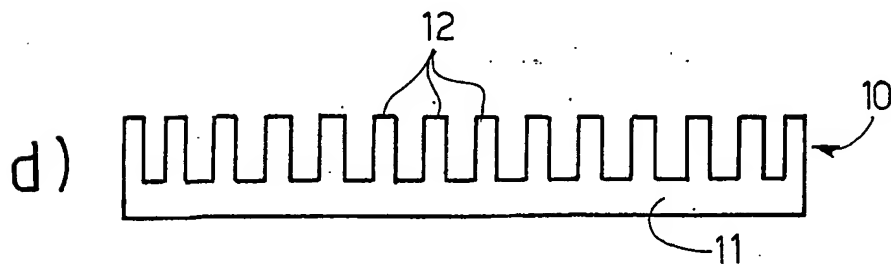
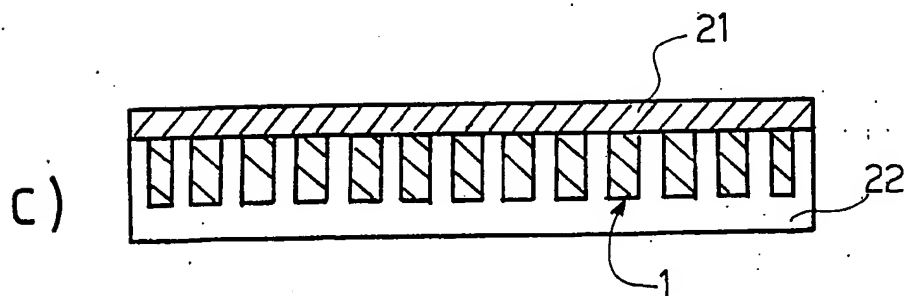
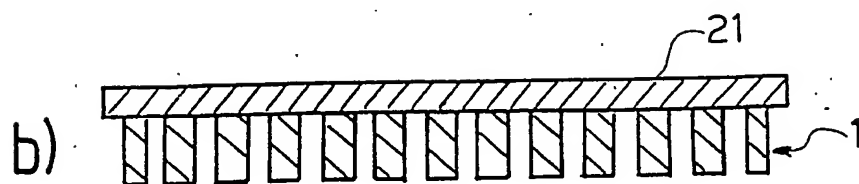
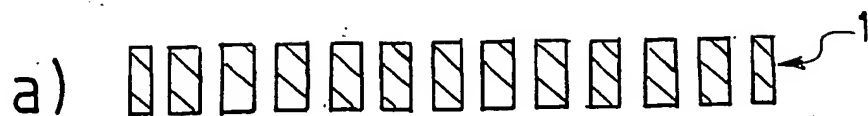


FIG. 10

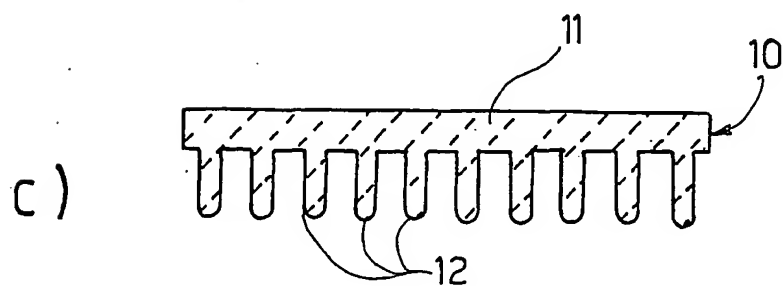
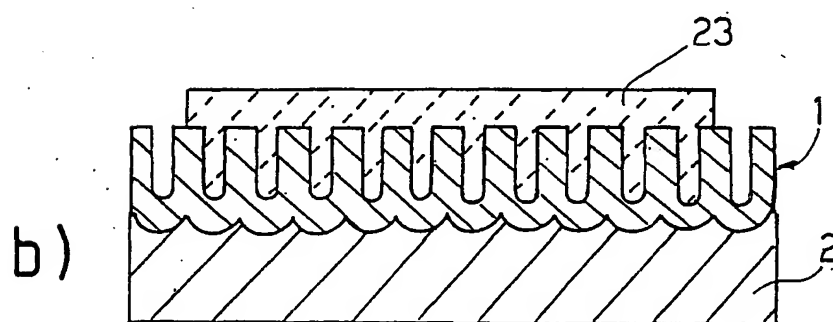
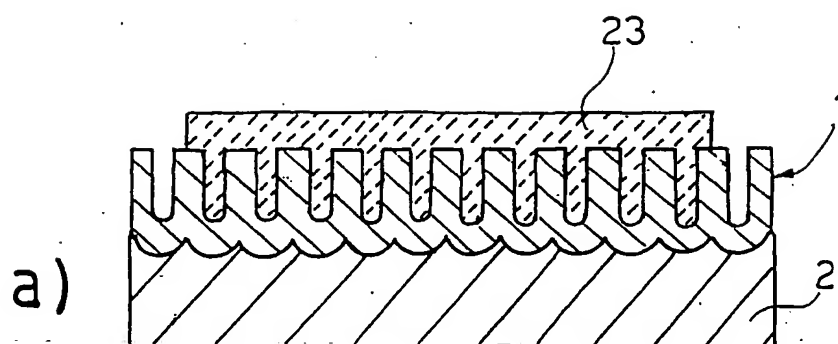


FIG. 11

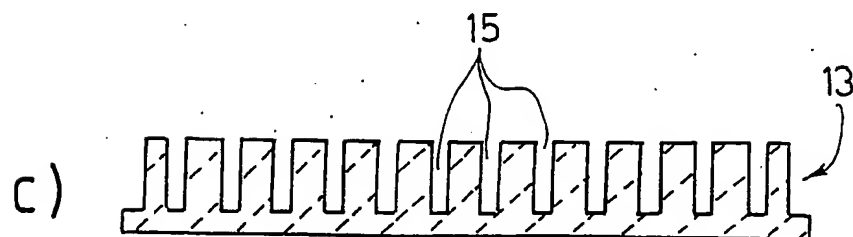
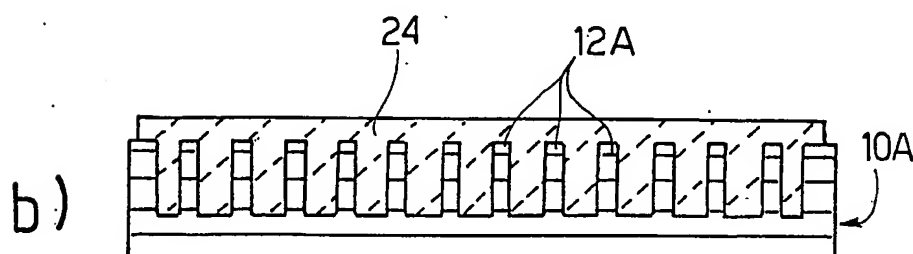
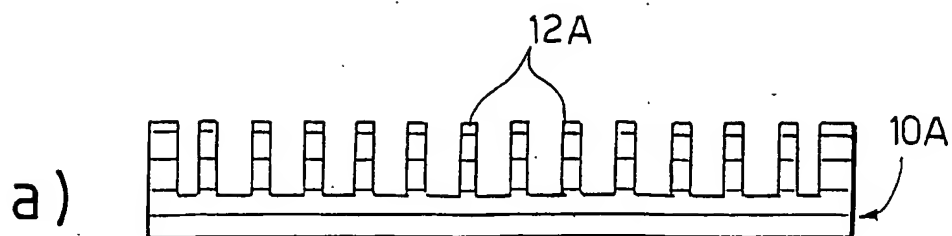


FIG. 12

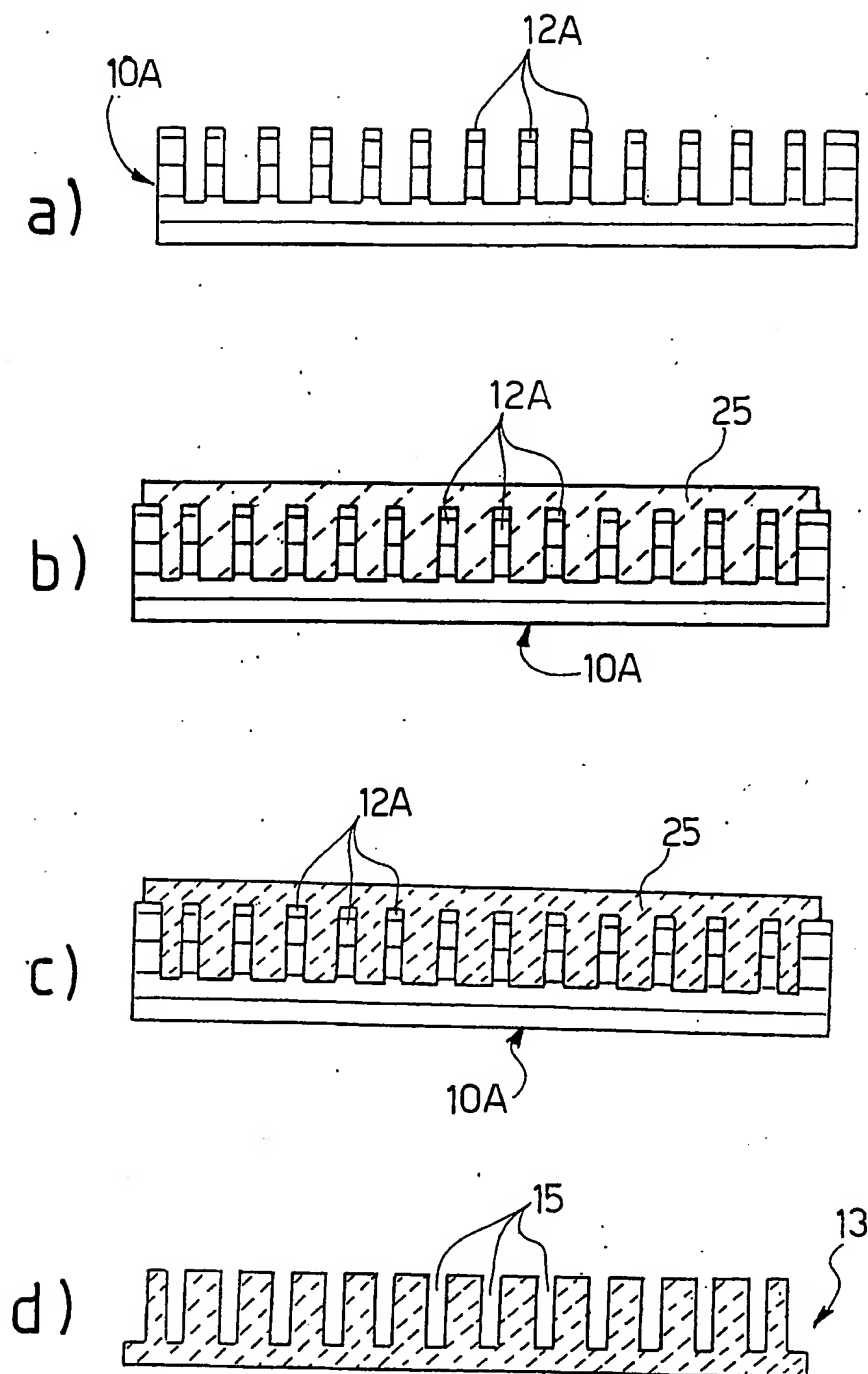


FIG. 13

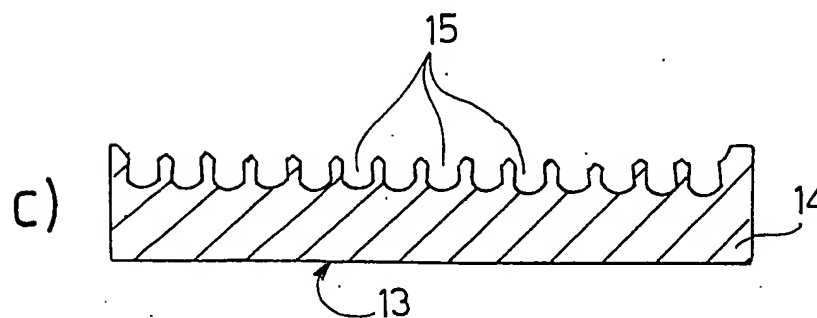
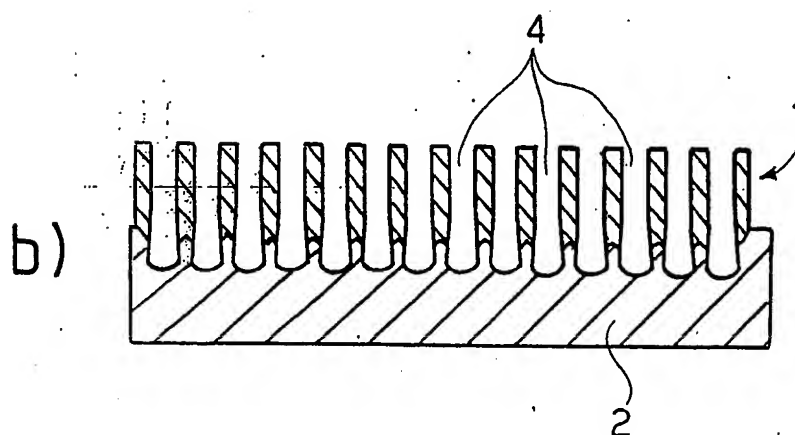
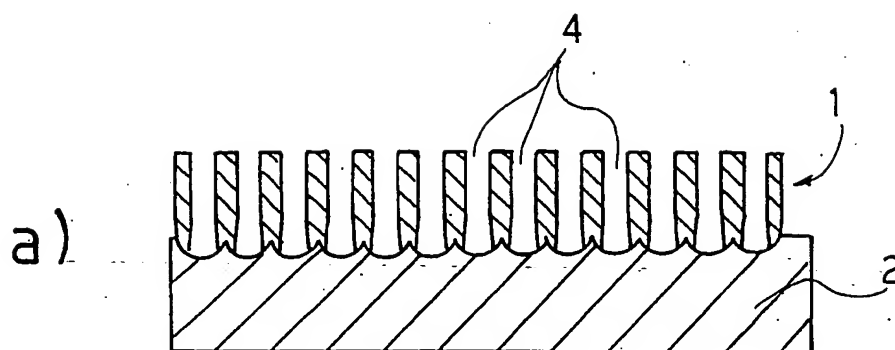


FIG. 14

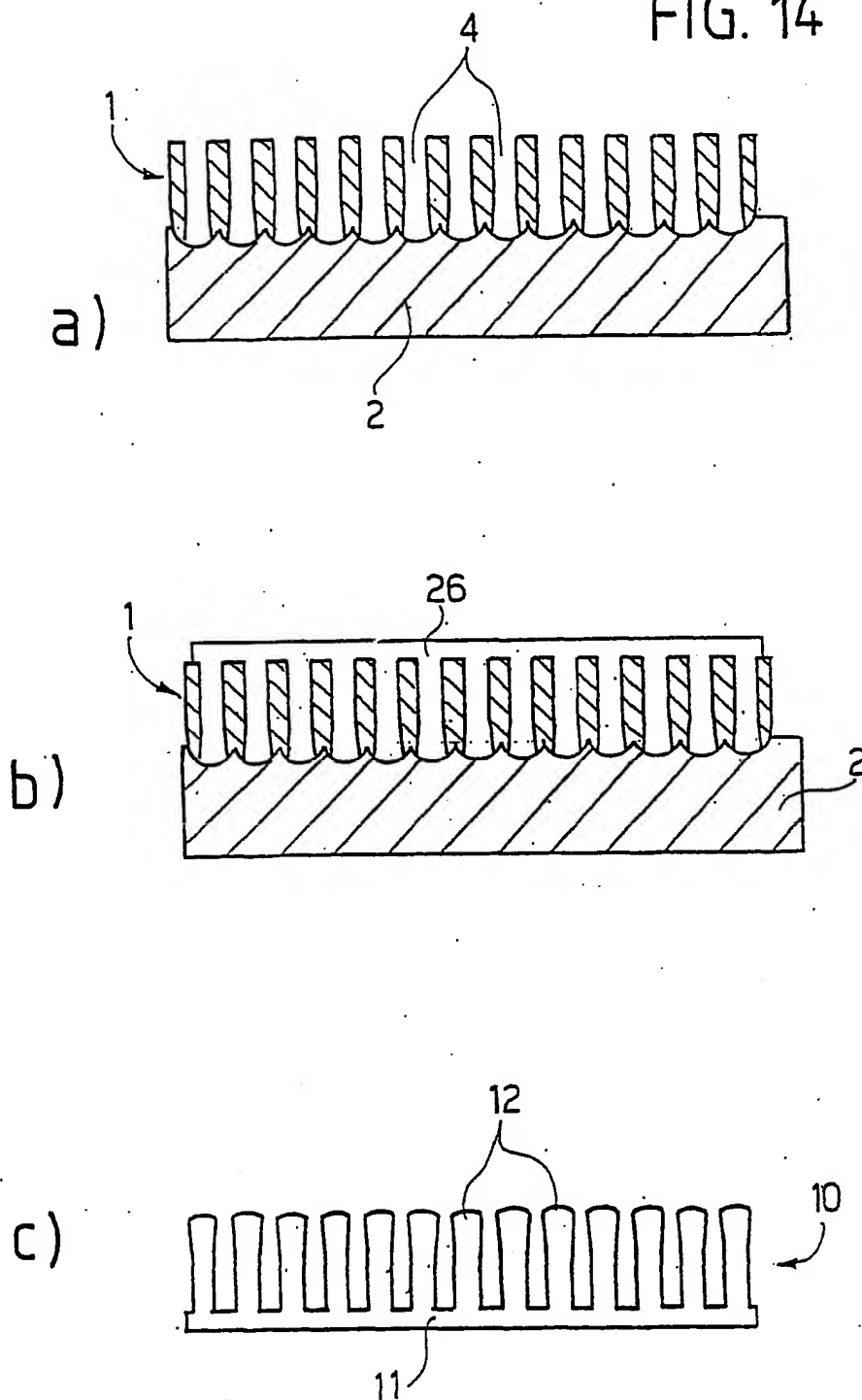
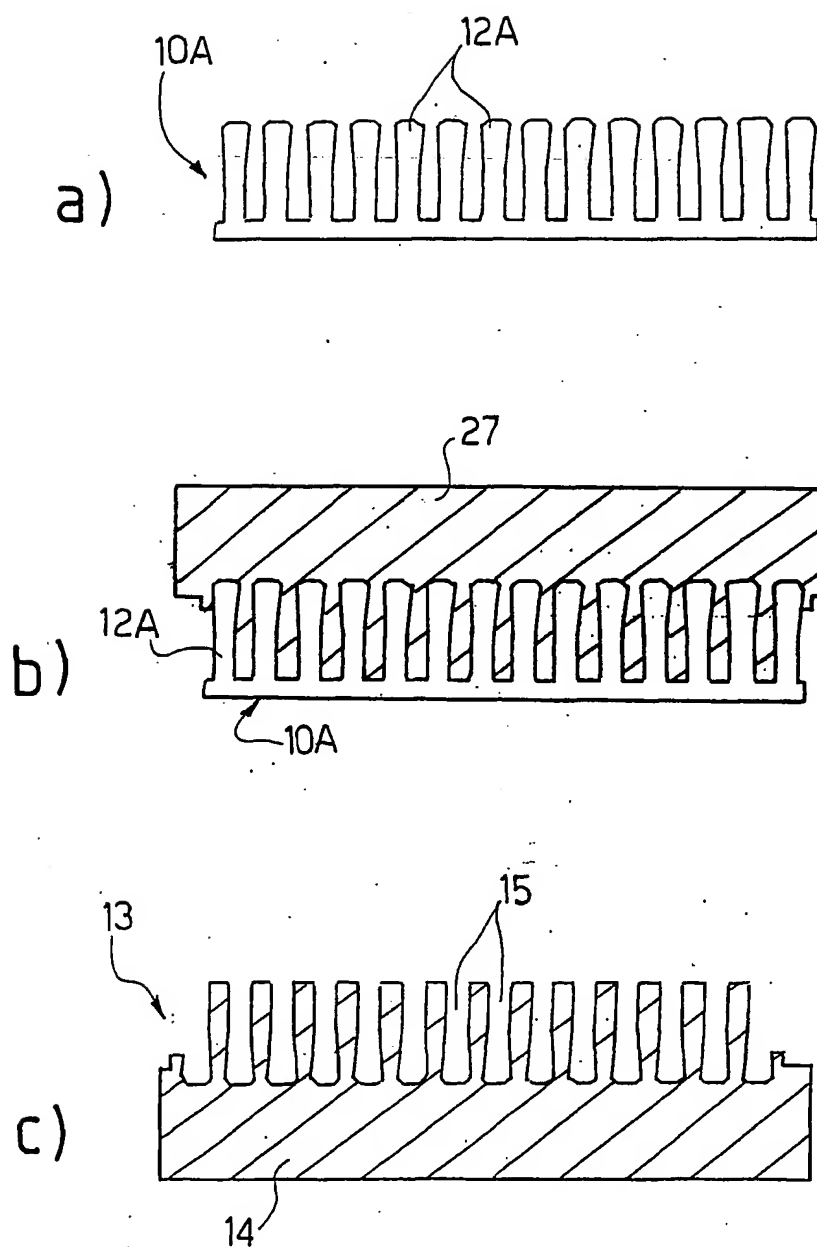


FIG. 15



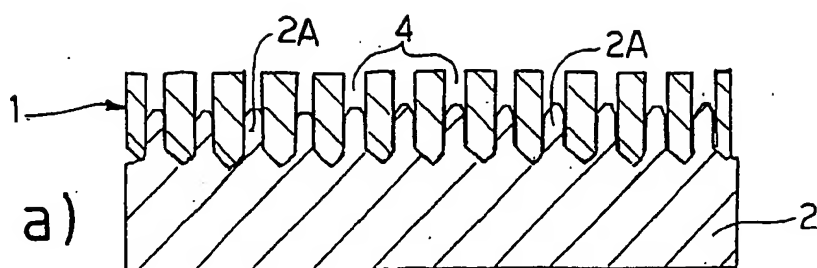


FIG. 16

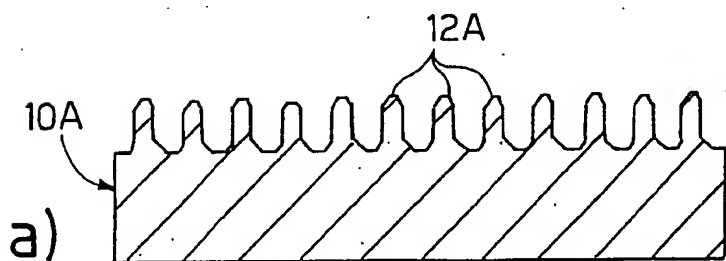
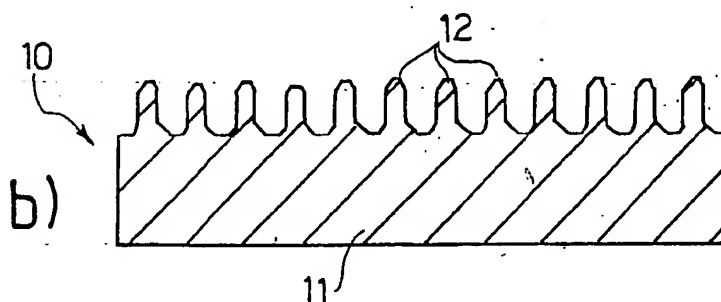
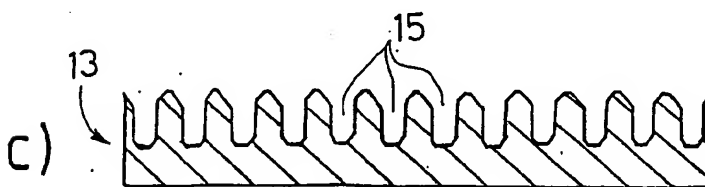
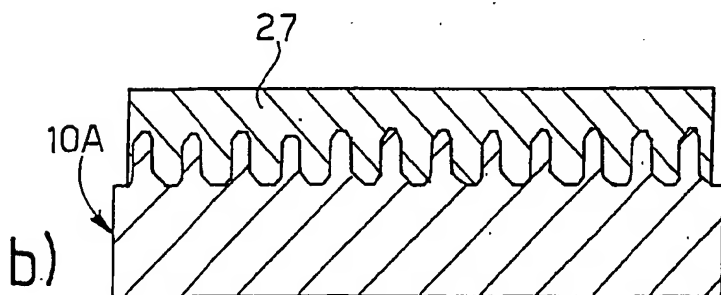


FIG. 17



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/06338

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H01K3/02 H01K1/02 H01K1/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 079 473 A (WAYMOUTH JOHN F) 7 January 1992 (1992-01-07) column 5, line 9 - column 7, line 22; figures 4A, 4B, 5, 6 column 4, line 20 - line 32	1-29
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 12, 3 January 2001 (2001-01-03) & JP 2000 267585 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) abstract	1-29
P, A	-& US 2003/071564 A1 (HIRAYAMA YUZO) 17 April 2003 (2003-04-17) paragraphs '0014!', '0015! paragraphs '0081! - '0084!; figures 2A, 2B ----- -/-	1-29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/03/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/06338

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>HIDEKI MASUDA ET AL: "PREPARATION OF MICROPOROUS METAL MEMBRANES BY TWO-STEP REPLICATION OF THE MICROSTRUCTURE OF ANODIC ALUMINA" THIN SOLID FILMS, ELSEVIER-SEQUOIA S.A. LAUSANNE, CH, vol. 223, no. 1, 15 January 1993 (1993-01-15), pages 1-3, XP000367988 ISSN: 0040-6090 the whole document</p>	1,26
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 12, 3 January 2001 (2001-01-03) & JP 2000 243247 A (CANON INC), 8 September 2000 (2000-09-08) abstract</p>	1,26

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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